

Special Session of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity:

Youth and Integrity in MENA and OECD Countries

27 March 2018 - OECD Conference Centre (Paris, France)

The MENA-OECD Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity met on 27 March 2018 in Paris, France in the context of the [2018 OECD Integrity Week](#). The Working Group brought together policy practitioners from MENA and OECD countries to engage in a policy dialogue on integrity and preventing corruption.



RESULTS OF THE MEETING

Delivering on the mandate of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme for 2016-2020, this special session of the Working Group focused on the impact of corruption on young people and the public policies needed to strengthen youth capacities to fight corruption.

Building on the [OECD recommendations on Public Integrity](#) and the [Recommendation of the council on Open government](#), the session drew on the regional report “Youth in the MENA Region: How to bring them in”, and the dialogue of the OECD Public Governance Committee on the role of public governance to empower youth.

This meeting was also the occasion to present the new regional report on Youth engagement and Empowerment in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia (accessible [here](#)).

PARTICIPATION

The meeting, chaired by an NGO from Jordan and the Permanent Delegation of Mexico, was attended by anti-corruption policy-makers and experts from MENA and OECD countries, international organisations as well as representatives of civil society organisations, parliamentarians and public entities such as anti-corruption and audit institutions, access to information commissions,

and ministries of public administration. The concluding remarks were delivered by Morocco as chair of the Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IS KEY TO FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING INTEGRITY



In their role as citizens, consumers, students, workers, or voters, youth present a vulnerable target for corruption. It is therefore necessary that youth and integrity policies are shaped and implemented to address corruption risks. Young men and women can be key drivers of positive change and innovation and hence become active partners of government in fostering a culture of transparency, integrity and accountability. In order to become agent of change in the fight against corruption, young people need to be aware of the role they can play, and their capacities be reinforced.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION

- In addition to building coherent and comprehensive integrity system, countries should partner with citizens of all ages to cultivate a culture of integrity. As **watchdogs** of government officials and politicians, **active members of the community** and **employees of the private or public sectors**, young citizens have a role to play in the fight against corruption and responsibility to promote public integrity more broadly in society.
- **Understanding youth perception of corruption and lifting the language barrier between young people and governments is key to making youth voices effective.** Young people need to know and understand *what* the integrity responsibilities are of their governments; *who* should be held accountable; and *how* to mobilise action.
- **Access to information and Open government tools can support youth involvement** in the consultation phase but also in the monitoring and implementation of policies, as well as in legislative work. New technologies can be leveraged to facilitate and ease transparency
- **Youth involvement starts with education and training.** Education is key in strengthening and developing a culture of integrity.
- Delegates **welcomed the new youth report** on Youth engagement and empowerment in Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan and invited the MENA-OECD Governance Programme to build on the evidence to prepare a comparative report on youth engagement and empowerment, including a focus on youth and integrity.

